Review
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of analyzing technological impact on other cultures. Why have some societies more readily incorporated technology than others? Despite its long isolation, Japan, an Eastern nation, has taken over technology more quickly than European Spain. Or again, Furnivall asks, why should the very success of some peoples in introducing technological elements undermine, rather than strengthen as expected, their economic and social welfare? No one may criticize this study for not answering these questions, since sociology is yet to develop well articulated theories of social change. Nevertheless, two good chapters, one relating the empirical data to some of the existing theories of social change, and the other on the influence of technology on non-Western cultures would, I believe, have markedly enhanced the value of this useful book. They would have helped to meet the growing American interest in the technological problems of the unindustrialized areas and to remind students that American experience, valuable as it is, is not by itself universal or adequate as the basis for scientific generalization.

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Personality in a Communal Society. An Analysis of the Mental Health of the Hutterites. By Bert Kaplan and Thomas F. A. Plaut. Lawrence: University of Kansas Publications, Social Science Studies, 1956. xi, 116 pp. $3.25, cloth; $2.50, paper.

This slim monograph is a companion volume to Joseph W. Eaton and Robert J. Weil's *Culture and Mental Disorders,* The Free Press, Glencoe, Illinois, 1955. Both books are based upon data collected by a research group assembled by Eaton. The Hutterities are a rural, communal-owning, Anabaptist sect, scattered over several northwestern prairie states and provinces of southwestern Canada. Members of this sect have been genetically and culturally in-bred for some four centuries.

Eaton became interested in the Hutterities because of their reputation for being "mentally healthy." The team he assembled was composed of a psychiatrist and two clinical psychologists, the authors of the volume under review. The team's problem was to learn if the Hutterites are, in fact, as mentally healthy as they are believed to be by non-Hutterites in the region.

Eaton and his associates discovered the Hutterites are afflicted with mental illness to about the same extent as other known human groups. But the unique contribution of Eaton and Weil's volume is the finding that psychoses among the Hutterites largely take the form of severe depressions. Kaplan and Plaut, in the present volume, focus attention upon personality structure in Hutterite society. Their interest in personality structure is posited on the theoretical assumption that one must understand the stresses and presses which shape personality before he can make linkages between the culture pattern of a people and the mental health of individuals in it. Two projective tests were used to uncover the covert details of Hutterite personality: Henry A. Murray's *Thematic Apperception Test* and a *Sentence Completion Test.*

Kaplan and Plaut's findings substantiate the conclusions of Eaton and Weil: the Hutterites are afflicted with a depressive form of psychopathology. This team, however, believes it is worth noting that the projective tests show far more psychopathology among apparently "normal" personalities than the psychiatrist's clinical examinations revealed. What is of fundamental importance is this: Kaplan and Plaut present a plausible, theoretical explanation of interrelations between social and cultural factors and personality structure.

Both volumes are recommended for students interested in the social aspects of mental health and illness.

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The American Class Structure. By Joseph A. Kahl. New York: Rinehart and Company, Inc., 1957. xviii, 310 pp. $4.50, text.

In these days when knowledge of sociological theory is so much at a premium it is easy to overlook that sociologists must also know the descriptive anatomy of their society. Researches in the field of social stratification over the last few decades have perhaps done more to reveal the social structure of American society than any other sociological enterprise. Professor Kahl's book is a very clear and very competent summary of these researches. In an easy bundle, accessible to all, it renders some of the more significant sociological answers to the query "What is America?".

Unlike the recent text in the same field by Bernard Barber, this book does not have the ambition to integrate stratification research into any current version of general social theory. Instead Kahl organizes his material along six lines: which persons command high prestige? which occupations rate high? who has possessions and a stylish way of life? who associates intimately with whom? what class consciousness is there? and what values tend to emerge in various strata? This division reflects the interests of the scientists whose works the author

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